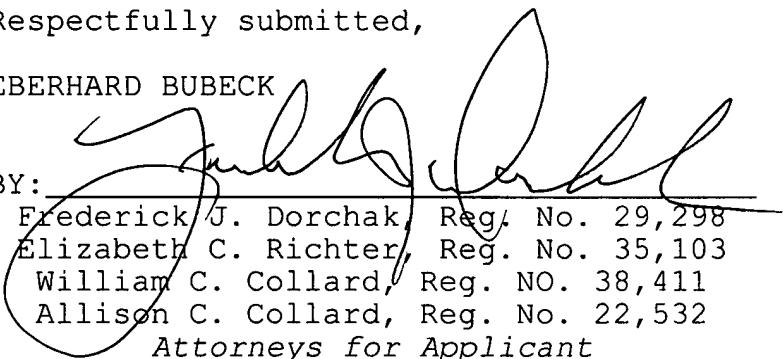


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, the specification has been amended, an Abstract has been provided and claim 3 has been amended to delete the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on December 27, 2004, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. PTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Ingrid Mittendorf